

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OES-03 ERDA-05 FEA-01 SS-15 SSO-00

NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 CIEP-01

COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FPC-01 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04 SAM-01 SP-02 STR-04

TRSE-00 /086 R

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EUR:JAARMITAGE

-----EUR/SOV:MGARRISON

OES/SEP:WROOT

ERDA:WHILL

FEA:CMALIN

S/S:O:DLMACK

EUR:P:FSEIDNER

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O 061934Z MAR 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 055647

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: ENRG, OEXC, US, UR

SUBJECT:POSTPONEMENT OF SECOND US-USSR JOINT ENERGY
COMMITTEE MEETING

1. IT HAS BEEN DECIDED THAT THE SECOND MEETING OF THE
US-SOVIET JOINT ENERGY COMMITTEE SHOULD BE POSTPONED UNTIL
THE SECOND HALF OF THIS YEAR. THE DECISION WAS TAKEN TO
SIGNAL THE SOVIETS AND OTHERS THAT WE ARE NOT PREPARED AT
THE PRESENT TIME TO CONDUCT ALL ASPECTS OF OUR RELATIONS ON
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A BUSINESS AS USUAL BASIS, AND THAT SOME ACTIONS ON THEIR

PART CAN HAVE A DIRECT IMPACT ON THE MOMENTUM AND LEVEL OF OUR RELATIONS IN AREAS OF INTEREST TO THEM. EMBASSY IS THEREFORE REQUESTED TO CONVEY ASAP IN A MANNER IT DEEMS APPROPRIATE THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM FEA ADMINISTRATOR ZARB TO NIEPOROZHNY.

2. BEGIN TEXT: DEAR MR. MINISTER: IN CONNECTION WITH PREPARATIONS CURRENTLY UNDERWAY FOR THE SECOND US-USSR JOINT ENERGY COOPERATION COMMITTEE MEETING, SCHEDULED FOR MARCH 15-29, I MUST INFORM YOU THAT THE US DELEGATION WILL BE UNABLE TO ATTEND THE MEETING. DEVELOPMENTS WE DID NOT ANTICIPATE WHEN WE AGREED TO THE MARCH MEETING DATES NOW MAKE IT INAPPROPRIATE FOR US TO MEET AS SCHEDULED.

DURING THE POSTPONEMENT, EXPERTS ON BOTH SIDES CAN IN OUR VIEW CONTINUE THEIR DELIBERATIONS, AND WE COULD INCORPORATE THE RESULTS OF THEIR WORK AT A JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING, WHICH COULD PERHAPS TAKE PLACE SOMETIME DURING THE SECOND HALF OF THIS YEAR. I LOOK FORWARD TO HEARING FROM YOU. SINCERELY YOURS, FRANK ZARB, ADMINISTRATOR, FEDERAL ENERGY ADMINISTRATION. END TEXT.

4. WE DO NOT RPT NOT PLAN TO ANNOUNCE THAT WE HAVE POSTPONED THE MEETING. HOWEVER, WE HAVE PREPARED THE FOLLOWING CONTINGENCY PRESS GUIDANCE IN THE EVENT THE MATTER IS RAISED HERE, OR IN MOSCOW, SINCE ATTENDANCE BY ZARB AND SEAMANS AT THE MARCH 15 MEETING WAS MENTIONED IN A RECENT ITEM IN BUSINESS WEEK.

Q. HAVE WE ASKED THAT THE SECOND US-USSR JOINT ENERGY COOPERATION COMMITTEE MEETING BE POSTPONED?

A. YES. WE ASKED THAT IT BE POSTPONED PERHAPS UNTIL THE SECOND HALF OF THIS YEAR. WE BELIEVE WE CAN PUT THE NEXT FEW MONTHS TO GOOD USE IN FURTHER PREPARATORY WORK.

5. IF PRESSED FURTHER ABOUT WHY WE ASKED FOR A POSTPONEMENT, WE WOULD SAY: AMONG OTHER THINGS, WE WISHED, BEFORE PROCEEDING WITH A VISIT TO THE USSR BY TWO TOP-RANKING OFFICIALS, TO HAVE MORE TIME TO ASSESS THE TREND
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IN US-SOVIET RELATIONS. INGERSOLL

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